## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN, PO, US SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. SOARES U.S. VISIT: ACCORDING TO FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, WHITE HOUSE GIVING "MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE" TO APRIL 21 SOARES/CARTER MEETING. IGBAL AHMED, DN INTERNATIONAL EDITOR, FILED STORY FROM WASHINGTON WHILE VISITING U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WITH OTHER JOURNALISTS FROM NATO COUNTRIES. "HIGH-LEVEL WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL" CREDITED WITH PLACING SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ON SOARES VISIT TO "EMPHATICALLY UNDERSCORE" IMPORTANT ROLE DEMOCRATIC PORTUGAL PLAYS FOR U.S. AND ALLIES. WH SPOKESMAN, ACCORDING TO AHMED EMPHASIZED ALSO "TREMENDOUS ADMIRATION" PRESIDENT CARTER HAS FOR PORTUGUESE PEOPLE "WHO OVERTHREW RIGHTIST DICTATORSHIP AND NEUTRALIZED LEFTIST DICTATORSHIP IMPLANTED BY COMMUNISTS". WH SOURCE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT U.S. "FIRMLY SUPPORTS" DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN PORTUGAL AS DEMONSTRATED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. COMMITMENT TO PORTUGAL CONSORTIUM LOAN.

2. CONSORTIUM LOAN: PORTUGUESE MEDIA EXTENSIVELY COVERED PROPOSED CONSORTIUM LOAN APRIL 6. IN STORY ON PORTUGUESE PLAN TO ENTER EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, O DIA RAN SUBHEAD: "CYRUS VANCE INVITES "THE NINE" TO COOPERATE WITH THE 'BIG LOAN'". ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY

THAT THE EC RECEIVED SECSTATE VANCE'S APPEAL FOR LOAN COOPERATION WITH "LITTLE ENTHUSIASM". COVERAGE IN DIARIO DE NOTICIAS AND O DIARIO SIMILAR, EXCEPT FOR LATTER'S MORE NEGATIVE TREATMENT. COMMUNIST O DIARIO COMMENTED THAT JAPAN HAS RESPONDED VAGUELY TO VANCE'S REQUEST AND THAT THE U.S. "ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS HAS ENCOUNTERED MANY DIFFICULTIES". EQUALLY NEGATIVE, IF NOT MISLEADING, IS FRONT-PAGE STORY IN CENTER--ORIENTED EXPRESSO, WHICH HEAD-LINED "EC MINISTERS AGAINST 'BIG LOAN'". NOTHING IN STORY SUPPORTS HEAD-LINE. ARTICLE REFERS ONLY TO "RELATIVE DISINTEREST". ON PARTY OF WEST GERMANY INFLUENCED PERHAPS BY U.S. POSITION REGARDING GERMAN REPUBLIC NUCLEAR MATERIAL SALES TO BRAZIL. SAME PAPER, IN ITS COLUMN "DIPLOMATIC POUCH". COMMENTS THAT CONSORTIUM PLAN MAY NOT BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY WEST GERMANY. WRTIER SUGGESTS THAT ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL MIGHT INCLUDE SOARES INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE CARTER SUPPORT FOR FORMATION OF OECD "LENDING POOL" OR FUNDING FROM IMF. IN A SECOND INSIDE PIECE, DIARIO DE NOTICIAS NOTED THAT U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED USG \$550 MILLION CONSORTIUM LOAN COMMITMENT. PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER URGING SUPPORT FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS WAS REPORTED ON IN DIARIO DE LISBOA. PAPER ALSO PICKED UP PORTIONS OF WHAT IT SAID WAS NY TIMES STORY, WHICH WARNED THAT UNLESS PORTUGAL RECEIVED LOAN "THE SOARES GOVERNMENT WOULD FALL AND BE REPLACED BY A DICTATORSHIP FROM THE LEFT OR RIGHT." UNCLASSIFIED

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## Message Attributes

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